

IV.—MIGRATION OF PIED CRESTED CUCKOO  
[*CLAMATOR JACOBINUS* (BODDAERT)].

Apropos of Mr. H. Whistler's interesting article on the Migration of the Pied Crested Cuckoo, *Clamator jacobinus* (Boddaert) on p. 136, Vol. xxxiii of this *Journal*, I wish to report that I observed a solitary example of this bird on a pink cassia tree in bloom, by the side of the lane adjoining the Public Gardens, Trivandrum, on 27th and 28th February 1942. After these dates, the bird has not been met with anywhere in this neighbourhood.

The previous records of this bird for Travancore are one female, collected at Cape Comorin on 7-4-'33 by Mr. Salim A. Ali, during the ornithological survey of Travancore and two specimens from Kutyani, about 7 miles north of Trivandrum, dated 21st and 22nd September 1898, sex unknown, in the Trivandrum Museum. Mr. Salim A. Ali describes the pied crested cuckoo as fairly common in the low country about Cape Comorin and Aramboli, inhabiting lightly wooded and Babul scrub terrain and groves of trees in the neighbourhood of cultivation. I visited Kutyani several times in July and August 1933 while engaged in supplementary work connected with the ornithological survey of Travancore, but the bird was noted as absent.

GOVERNMENT MUSEUM,  
TRIVANDRUM,

22nd September, 1942.

N. G. PILLAI.

V.—ON THE OCCURRENCE OF THE GREEN-BREASTED  
PITTA (*PITTA CUCULLATA* HARTL.), AT SIMLA.

It is worth recording that a specimen of the above was picked up dead in the 'Glen', Simla, at an elevation of 6,000 ft. on the 23rd June 1942 by Master Dick Nunn who had gone to this spot with his father (Col. Nunn), mother and his brother for a picnic. He tells me that it was lying dead on the ground and some ants were crawling over it at the time. It showed no trace of having been in captivity. On skinning it I found that the femur was, high up, badly fractured.

One can only conjecture what brought it so far from its normal habitat which is given in the '*Fauna, Birds*', as the '*Himalayas and Assam*', etc., etc.

SIMLA,

16th December, 1942.

A. E. JONES.

VI.—LOCAL MOVEMENTS OF THE PAINTED PARTRIDGE  
(*FRANCOLINUS PICTUS* JARD. & SELBY) ROUND BOMBAY.

In a letter dated the 9th October, 1941, Mr. E. Sheehy of the Bombay Police writes:—

'From the remarks in your book one is led to believe that the painted partridge is scarce owing to constant destruction by

sportsmen. I admit that within Salsette they are fast disappearing but I do not put this down to the sportsmen. The advance of fast and heavy traffic together with the easy access to places by motor car, would tend to drive the game.

'Where these civilised conditions do not exist, i.e. off the beaten tract, I still find this game in plenty. Not far beyond Salsette, say within 15 miles I have had some of the finest shooting available.

'In 1939 with 4 guns we bagged 30 brace.

'In 1938 with 2 guns the days' bag, shooting from 8 a.m. to noon was:—

18 brace partridge (painted)  
 3 hares  
 6 couple snipe  
 15 brace quail (grey)  
 1 florican

'On the other occasions in the same seasons, a morning's shoot produced 12 brace, 9 brace, 8 brace with 2 guns.

'A few years previous to 1938 thinking that the birds on this ground would be depleted by shooting yearly (I have shot over this country since 1934) I released 48 bought birds in the same country. It is an ideal spot, small scrub jungle and lark country and watered by a stream throughout the year. All these birds were ringed with a white bone ring. I did not shoot this particular ground for 3 years but in 1937 on return from Home leave, realising from the reports of my Shikari that birds were numerous I visited the place with the result that two guns bagged 31 brace shooting from 7 a.m. to noon. The strange thing was that not a single bird was ringed. Shooting the following week at a place some 8 miles further than the spot referred to above we bagged 7 birds with the rings in addition to many without. So I can presume that the parent birds wander away after bringing up the young. Later I shot ringed birds 15 and 20 miles away from the place of their release.

'Another interesting feature; I released 24 ringed birds on the Thana-Belapur Road. Shooting here 2 years after, I found them scarce and did not get a single ringed bird. They were crowing all over the place in the monsoon and I could not understand where they had got to. Shooting some 10 miles on the Bombay side of Panvel, I bagged 6 of these ringed birds amongst others and thus solved the mystery of their migration from the monsoon to the cold weather months which indicated they breed in fairly heavy scrub and then wander off to the grasslands. I estimate the distance from Belapur Road to the Panvel place is some 24 miles and this over the Mumbra Hills'.

I mentioned these records to Mr. H. B. Hayes of the American Express, who knows a lot of the shooting country round Bombay, but his experience with partridge was no better than mine, amounting to two or four birds in a morning.

Mr. Hayes, however, was shooting round Khardi (on the Nasik Road) in May 1941, and bumped into a temporary camp of Phansipardas with their paraphernalia of ponies, goats, dogs, children, poultry, etc. His attention was drawn to an incessant twittering

under a few large nets pegged down to the ground and further investigation proved that there were dozens of partridges under them and two or three peafowls. Mr. Hayes estimated their number at anything between 200 to 500 birds, and it appears that they had recently been caught in the adjoining area.

Most of Bombay's shikaris have potted round the same country for pig and other game, but I doubt if anybody would estimate the number of partridges in the area at anything near these figures. During the monsoon one hears them calling all round, and one would venture a statement that there were a couple dozen birds in the neighbourhood. After the crops have been harvested and the grass cut down, they disappear and possibly collect in favourable places. Notes from other shikaris would be of interest.

I might mention that several birds shot in early October were in breeding condition and the season which opens officially on the 15th September should be delayed for at least a month, i.e. 15th October.

BOMBAY,

HUMAYUN ABDULALI.

14th December, 1942.

#### VII.—THE GREAT INDIAN BUSTARD [*CHORIOTIS NIGRICEPS* (VIGORS)] BREEDING IN KUTCH.

I shot a Great Indian Bustard on the 11th October, and found a small chick afterwards—which unfortunately died. However this is the first evidence to *prove* that these bustards breed in Kutch. No local shikari has up to now picked up an egg or seen a chick—although I must say Sir Geoffrey Archer said that bustards must be laying in Kutch.

BHUJ, KUTCH,

MAHARAO VIJAYARAJJI.

20th November, 1942.

[The Great Indian Bustard is known to breed in Gujerat and the Deccan: evidence of its breeding in Kutch was limited to a single egg taken in Kutch in the month of January (Stuart Baker, *Game Birds*, Vol. ii, p. 172). The breeding season varies in almost contiguous areas. Eggs have been taken in the Deccan in April and May and from Gujerat in June and November.—Eds.]

#### VIII.—EARLY ARRIVAL OF THE SPOTTED SANDGROUSE [*PTEROCLES SENEGALLUS* (LINN.)] IN KUTCH.

I shot over 50 *Waku-Waku* or Spotted Sandgrouse—on the Banni—on the 11th October. This place Neri is not very far from the island of Pachham. The local shikaris told me that these birds had arrived this year a month back, which means early in September. The normal time for their arrival is about the middle of November and even then you don't see them in thousands. On that day, I saw them literally in thousands. I wonder what drove them out from their home—the floods; or the Russians in the Caucasus?

BHUJ, KUTCH,

MAHARAO VIJAYARAJJI.

20th November, 1942.